MARVEL

EWING
COELLO
D'ARMATA

RATED T+

VENOM WAR

1 OF FIVE

GRAND GARDEN ARENA, NEW YORK CITY.
FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY.

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S ***RIGHT!*** IT'S ***ALL*** GOING DOWN IN ***ONE*** NIGHT! ***THIS VERY NIGHT!***

MORE ***UNLIMITED*** THAN THE ***UNLIMITED!*** MORE ***ULTIMATE*** THAN THE ***ULTIMATE!*** MORE ***IMMORTAL*** THAN THE ***IMMORTAL!***

THRILLS, CHILLS, MAYBE EVEN ***KILLS***--AS ONLY ***THIS*** PROMOTION CAN PROVIDE! THAAAAT'S ***RIGHT,*** BROTHER--

--WE! ARE GOING! TO WAR!

I, SYMBIOTE SMITH--THE KLYNTARIAN NIGHTMARE--HAVE ISSUED AN OPEN CHALLENGE TO THE UNLIMITED CLASS WRESTLING FEDERATION!

YOU WANT WHAT I GOT, YOU TAKE IT FROM ME! LAST MAN OR ALIEN STANDING WALKS AWAY WITH THE UNLIMITED GOLDEN BELT!

THE LUMBERJACK AND KEN "CAVEMAN" CORRIGAN HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL! AND IT'S LAST CALL--UNLESS THEY GOT A FREE BAR IN THE MORGUE!

BOOOO!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I WANNA ASK Y'ALL--IS THERE NOBODY ELSE IN THIS WHOLE ARENA WITH THE RAW GUTS TO--

YEAH, LOUDMOUTH--ME!

OOOOOH!

I'M FEELIN' MEAN AND MUTATED, SMITH! 'CUS YOU LET THAT ALIEN TONGUE WAG TOO MUCH IN THIS RING--

--AND NOW THE GATOR IS GONNA GIVE YA--THE BIG CHOMP!

G CHOMP!

BIG CHOMP!

BIG CHOMP

IT HAD TO HAPPEN! GAVIN "GATOR" GRANT WANTS REVENGE FOR WHAT WENT DOWN AT THE ROMP IN THE SWAMP!

AND HE'S PICKED NIGHT OF FIGHTS 2024 TO DO IT--MAKING THIS A FOUR-WAY BRAWL FOR IT ALL! DOC SAWBONES, YOUR THOUGHTS?

SAWBONES ISN'T READY, CRUSHER--NOT FOR THE LEVEL OF EXTREME PHYSICAL DISCOURTESY WE ARE ABOUT TO BEAR SHAMEFUL WITNESS TO!

NOOO! LEMME OUTTA HERE!

AND REFEREE "NERVOUS" NED NOVIS IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE!

BY FEDERATION LAW, THIS IS NOW AN ANYTHING-GOES GORE-N'-GRUE DEATHMATCH! I DON'T MAKE THE RULES, FOLKS!

AND THERE'S THE BELL TO UNLEASH HELL...

IRISH WHIP INTO A DDT.

I KNOW, I KNOW--

WHAT'S THAT LIGHT...?

NOW EXITING THE TIMESTREAM...

...THE TIME-SPLIT EDDIE BROCK.

TYRO.
SUBSERVIENT EDDIE.
NO HUMAN BODY.

VRA-KOOOM

WILDE.
SARCASTIC EDDIE.
NO HUMAN BODY.

BEDLAM.
ULTRAVIOLENT EDDIE.
NO HUMAN BODY.

EDDIE.
LEADER EDDIE.
THE ORIGINAL
HUMAN BODY.

OH, HEY.
I *RECOGNIZE*
THIS PLACE.

FROM
ONE GARDEN TO
ANOTHER...

...AND
WHAT ARE *YOU*
SUPPOSED TO
BE, PAL?

THAT
SHIRT LOOKS
FAMILIAR.

UH, I'M...
WELL...

I'M A
SYMBIOTE.

ARE YOU
NOW.

C'MERE.

AAAARRRGGGHH!

HOLY MOSES!

THE WAR FOR THE BELT JUST TOOK ONE HECK OF A LEFT TURN, FOLKS!

THAT CRUNCHING SOUND YOU HEARD WAS SYMBIOTE SMITH'S ARM! NO HUMAN OR ALIEN LIMB IS MEANT TO BEND THAT WAY!

AND THAT SOUND IS THE EVACUATION SIREN! ONCE AGAIN, THE CUE FOR OUR LIVE AUDIENCE TO FLEE WHILE THE FLEEING IS GOOD!

THAT'S U.C.W.F., FOLKS-- WHERE THE ACTION COULD GET REAL AT ANY MOMENT!

WE GONNA LET THESE FREAKS GO INTO BUSINESS FOR THEMSELVES ON OUR SPOT...?

HELL NO!

LUMBER-JACK SAYS-- JACK 'EM UP!

WHAMM

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR DISTRACTIONS--

DISTRACTIONS?

I FOUGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA ONCE!

KRAK

ANYBODY CAN FIGHT CAP ONCE, DUMMY.

IT'S FIGHTING HIM TWICE THAT'S THE TRICK.

HRRRHH. LAST MAN STANDING.

DOES THAT MEAN YOU WIN THE BELT?

UH... YEAH, I...I GUESS...

BUT I WAS JUST LEAVIN-- NNGGKK!

TOO LATE!

MY BELT NOW!

AARRGHH

OKAY! THESE PEOPLE ARE...NOT KIDDING AROUND!

CAN WE SPEED THE EVACUATION UP ANY? THANK YOU, SECURITY TEAM!

CRUSHER, I THINK THEIR LEADER IS ABOUT TO SPEAK--

THIS THING ON? GOOD.

'CAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT, CRUSHER.

THIS AIN'T KAYFABE.

SO CLEAR OUT THE RUBBERNECKERS-- BUT KEEP THOSE DRONE CAMERAS ROLLING. I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR THE FOLKS AT HOME.

THIS RING IS OURS NOW. IT BELONGS TO THE KINGS IN BLACK--AND YOU DON'T GET IT BACK UNTIL WE GET WHAT WE WANT.

TWO THINGS. WE WANT MY SON... AND WE WANT MY OTHER.

BECAUSE THIS WAR ISN'T FOR SOME BELT. IT'S FOR SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.

WELCOME TO THE VENOM WAR.

VENOM WAR

PART 1
ARE YOU READY?

Years ago, **EDDIE BROCK** was a reporter whose career was ruined after **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** revealed his biggest story to be false. Distraught, Brock contemplated ending his own life. But he found a kindred spirit–an extraterrestrial **SYMBIOTE** that Spider-Man had rejected. Sensing Brock shared its hatred of the wall-crawler, the creature bonded to him and the two became **VENOM**. Following years of conflict, Venom and Spider-Man became allies, and the symbiote found other hosts.

More recently, Eddie gained power over all symbiotes as the **KING IN BLACK**, the ruler of their race, while his son, **DYLAN**, and the symbiote formed their own union, becoming the New Venom! But now the Venom symbiote is missing, believing he has made both Eddie's and Dylan's lives worse. Meanwhile, both Eddie and Dylan have glimpsed unique and terrifying visions of the other's future if bonded to the Venom symbiote... dark fates they each will stop at nothing to prevent...even if that means starting a **WAR!**

TEAM EDDIE

EDDIE BROCK

BEDLAM

TYRO

WILDE

TEAM DYLAN

DYLAN BROCK

TOXIN/
BREN WATERS

RED GOBLIN/
NORMIE OSBORN

FLEXO

SLEEPER

UNDECLARED

SPIDER-MAN/
PETER PARKER

THE VENOM
SYMBIOTE

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MY EARLIEST *MEMORY...*

I HAD GONE AGAINST MY *KING.* BROKE FROM MY *PEOPLE.* I WAS A *WEAK LINK* IN THE CHAIN OF AN ENDLESS CAGE. I WAS *UNIQUE...*

THIS ONE APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF *OUTCAST.*

...BUT THE CONCEPT OF *SELF* WAS NEW AND HARD TO GRASP. I WAS VULNERABLE TO *MANIPULATION.*

THE MEMORIES ARE ONLY *FLASHES...*

...BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I HAD A *HOST.* A *SENTIENT* HOST.

HIS NAME WAS *TEL-KAR...*AND *TOGETHER,* WE WERE SOLDIERS IN A *WAR.*

THAT WAS THE FIRST THING I EVER REALLY KNEW.

THE WAR.

TEL-KAR WAS NOT A *TRUE* HOST. HE *CONTROLLED* AND *DAMAGED* ME. HE *FORCED* ME TO DO...*BAD THINGS.*

AND AFTER THAT, I DID *MORE* BAD THINGS. THINGS I DO NOT REMEMBER OR *WANT* TO REMEMBER. I WAS BAD...BAD *INSIDE...*

BUT THEN CAME MY *SECOND* MEMORY. A MEMORY OF *ANOTHER* WAR.

ANOTHER *SOLDIER.*

WHAT THE HECK IS *THAT?* AND WHY IS IT MAKING MY SPIDER-SENSE TINGLE?

MAYBE I'D BETTER GET RID OF--

I TOUCHED A *MIND,* AFTER SO LONG IN DARKNESS. AND *SUCH A MIND...*

HEY! IT'S GOING UP MY *ARM!* WHAT *IS* THIS STUFF?

COMPASSION THAT SHONE LIKE *SUNLIGHT.* RESPONSIBILITY THAT STOOD LIKE *STONE.* A GNAWING *GUILT* THAT DEMANDED *ALL* LIVES BE SAVED.

I DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT A *SAINT* WAS...

...YET SURELY, *THIS* WAS A SAINT.

SAINT PETER.

WELL, I'LL BE AN EIGHT-BALL'S UNCLE!

NOT *BAD!* DIFFERENT... BUT NOT BAD!

NOT BAD. HE SAID... I WAS *NOT BAD.* I WOULD HAVE DONE *ANYTHING* FOR HIM.

SO I DID *EVERYTHING* FOR HIM.

I TOOK ON HIS *WAR*--HIS *MISSION*. EVEN WHILE HE *SLEPT*, I PILOTED HIS *BODY*--TO BETTER *PROTECT* HIS KIND.

I WANTED TO BE WITH HIM *FOREVER*...

ZZZZ...

...AND IN THE PLACE OF SAINTS, HE TRIED TO *DESTROY* ME.

THESE BELLS MAY TURN MY BRAINS TO JELL-O, BUT IT SURE AS HECK'S GONNA GET *YOU*, PAL!

DON'T YOU SEE?

I'D RATHER DIE!

HE SAID HE WOULD RATHER *DIE* THAN BOND WITH ME.

YET I STILL SAVED HIS LIFE. EVEN AFTER *THAT*...

...I STILL WORE HIS *SYMBOL*. I STILL FOUGHT HIS *WAR*.

THE WAR AGAINST DEATH ITSELF.

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO EDDIE.

PLEASE, LORD. I WANT YOU TO *UNDERSTAND.*

I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE THIS BY *MYSELF.*

HE THOUGHT *HE* WAS BAD INSIDE. HE WAS *DYING*--POISONED BY SHAME AND SELF-HATE.

NOT BY *CANCER.* I MADE THAT UP TO MAKE HIM STAY. I... I KNOW THAT WAS *BAD*...A *BAD THING*...

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO TEST ME *THIS* WAY?

I KNOW YOU'RE *THERE,* GOD. AT LEAST, I *THINK* I KNOW...

BUT I *HEARD* HIM THAT NIGHT. I HAD A *RESPONSIBILITY*... TO *SAVE HIS LIFE*...

I KNOW YOU DON'T *APPROVE* OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO.

SO I THOUGHT I'D LET YOU SEE WHAT I'VE *BECOME*...

THAT WAS *WHY* I CHOSE HIM TO BOND WITH.

THAT WAS WHY.

...WHAT SPIDER-MAN'S DONE TO ME.

WASN'T IT?

EDDIE NEEDED ME. WE NEEDED EACH OTHER.

AND IF THAT MEANT DECLARING A NEW WAR... A WAR ON THE HOLY SAINT PETER...EDDIE'S LIFE WOULD STILL BE SAVED.

THAT'S ALL I WANTED. TO DO A GOOD THING.

I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL PETER AND DEVOUR HIS BRAIN TISSUE.

SSSSS...

...SSSPIDER-MAN...

I'M CERTAIN OF THAT.

SPIDER-MAN!

I'M GOING TO EAT YOUR BRAAAAINS!

BUT IT ALL GOT SO COMPLICATED.

THERE WERE MANY HOSTS AFTER THAT. ANNE WAS FIRST... I HELPED HER KILL, AND IT KILLED HER...

THERE WAS ANGELO FORTUNATO...WHO WANTED TO BE A SOLDIER FOR THE MAFIA...

MAC GARGAN... A SOLDIER IN A WAR ON HEROES...

FLASH THOMPSON, WHO TAUGHT ME WHAT A SOLDIER COULD BE... WHO FOUGHT IN THE WARS OF THE SPACE-KNIGHTS WITH ME...

LEE PRICE... ANOTHER SOLDIER... WHO I DESTROYED...

...AS I DESTROYED FLASH...AND MAC... AND ANGELO... AND ANNE...

...AND EDDIE...

...AND DYLAN?

HAVE I DESTROYED DYLAN YET?

DYLAN...MY *CHILD*...HE WANTED ME TO BE *HIS* SOLDIER. TO FIGHT HIS *WAR*. TO FIGHT *DEATH*, TO SAVE *LIVES*...

BUT I COULDN'T SAVE *EDDIE*, IN THE END. I COULDN'T SAVE DYLAN. I CAN'T SAVE *ANYBODY*.

I AM NOT A SYMBIOTE BUT A *PARASITE*. I *DESTROY* MY HOSTS.

NOW I AM HIDING *HERE*--IN PETER'S *CLOSET*. THE PLACE I ONCE FELT *USEFUL*, *WANTED*, *SAFE*...

I AM HANGING WITH SHIRTS AND SOCKS AND OTHER COSTUMES. SIMPLE DEAD THINGS OF SPANDEX AND CLOTH WHO DO NOT THINK OR FEEL OR JUDGE ME.

I AM WAITING TO BE DEAD LIKE THEM.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A THING OF *WAR*... AND LIKE WAR, I LEAVE *SCARS*, AND SCARS ARE LEFT ON *ME*. TOO MANY.

MERIDIUS TOLD ME THAT DYLAN WAS *ALIVE*...THAT EDDIE WAS COMING *BACK*... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN *BELIEVE* HIM.

BECAUSE I DESTROY MY HOSTS. I DESTROY THOSE I LOVE.

SO I AM *HERE*...IN THE HOME OF THE ONE HOST WHO WOULD *NEVER* BOND WITH ME, WHO I WOULD *NEVER* BOND WITH. HIDDEN WITH THE OTHER *EMPTY SUITS*.

WAITING FOR *DEATH*...

...OR FOR THE HAND OF FATE.

COSTUME.

DAMN IT, EDDIE. THE ONE NIGHT I GET TO WATCH WRESTLING, AND YOU--ARRGH!

THIS IS MY FAULT SOMEHOW. I JUST KNOW IT.

LESSEE-- GOT MY SPARE MASK, GOT WEB-SHOOTERS, GOT WEB-FLUID, GOT MY KEYS, GOT MY COSTUME--

...

MY BLACK COSTUME.

OH NO.

PETER.

DON'T FREAK OUT.

SOMEWHERE UNDERNEATH THE CITY STREETS.

I'M TRYING REALLY HARD NOT TO **FREAK OUT** HERE.

DYLAN BROCK.
THE SON OF VENOM.

I SWEAR I'M **TRYING** TO CONNECT WITH THE SYMBIOTE... THROUGH OUR BOND, THROUGH THAT **HALF-SYMBIOTE** SIDE OF ME...

...BUT THERE'S **NOTHING.** MAYBE HE LEARNED HOW TO **HIDE**...OR...

OR?

OR IT'S **ME.** LIKE...LIKE I'M FLINCHING BACK FROM SOMETHING THAT'LL **HURT.**

CARNAGE...HE **SHOWED** ME THINGS. THINGS THE SYMBIOTE **KEPT** FROM ME--ABOUT ALL THE STUFF HE DID WITH **DAD,** WITH **MOM**... WITH ALL THE **OTHERS.**

THE PEOPLE THEY **HURT**...**KILLED**... GUILTY PEOPLE, INNOCENT PEOPLE. EVERYTHING THEY **FELT** WHILE THEY WERE DOING IT.

AND WHILE I WAS REELING FROM THE **EMOTIONAL** PAIN...CARNAGE GOT **PHYSICAL.** KILLED ME **DEAD.**

FOR REAL--**STONE-COLD DEAD.** NOBODY **HUMAN** COULD HAVE SURVIVED...

...BUT THERE'S THAT **SYMBIOTE** SIDE, RIGHT?

YEAH.

THAT SYMBIOTE SIDE.

SOMETHING *HAPPENED* TO ME. SOMETHING *IMPOSSIBLE.*

I WENT SOMEWHERE THAT WAS...*BEYOND DEATH.* BEYOND *EVERYTHING.*

AND WHEN I WAS *THERE*... I SAW THIS *THING.* SOMETHING SPEAKING IN MY *FATHER'S VOICE.*

"IT CALLED ITSELF *THE EVENTUALITY*...

"...AND IT SAID I HAD *FIVE QUESTIONS.*"

I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN... I THOUGHT I WAS *DEAD.* BUT AFTER EVERYTHING I'D *SEEN*...ALL THE AWFUL THINGS THE SYMBIOTE *HID* FROM ME...

...I HAD TO *KNOW.*

I HAD TO KNOW WHAT IT'D DO IF IT GOT BACK WITH *EDDIE.*

"SO THE EVENTUALITY SHOWED ME."

FIGHT, DAMN YOU! TAKE THIS BURDEN FROM ME--

--OR THE NINTH COSMOS WILL BE THE LAST COSMOS! THE LAST LIGHT STAINING THE VOID!

WE ARE THE ANTI-ALL NOW...

...AND WE ARE VENOM!

S-SO... SO I ASKED MY NUH-NEXT QUESTION.

"I LOST EVERYTHING. I'M JUST A KID.

"HOW DO I STOP HIM?"

HEH.

YOU'LL KNOW WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

AND--AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE MEANT! I DIDN'T KNOW! I MEAN, DO YOU?

DO I KNOW WHEN I'M OLDER...?

YEAH. YOU DO.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, PAST ME.

DYLAN BROCK'S GOT THIS.

...

SO YOU REALLY *ARE* ME? FROM THE *FUTURE?*

AS MUCH OF A FUTURE AS IT *IS,* YEAH. THINGS DIDN'T EXACTLY WORK OUT FOR THE BEST.

FOR *ANYBODY.*

THAT'S A SHOCK...

I GOTTA *SAY,* KID--YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE TIME TRAVEL PRETTY *WELL.* WHICH IS WEIRD FOR *ME,* BY THE WAY.

SUDDENLY HAVING *MEMORIES* OF DEALING WITH IT WHEN *I* WAS YOU...

ANY PART OF ME THAT CAN'T *DEAL* GOT BURNED OUT A LONG TIME AGO. I'VE LEARNED TO ADAPT TO *ANYTHING.*

'CAUSE IT'S *ADAPT OR DIE,* I GUESS.

I WISH I COULD SAY IT GETS *EASIER.*

BUT IT *WON'T.* SO LISTEN *GOOD.*

THE TIME MACHINE ON MY BACK IS *DOOMTECH.* IF I CAN *CHANGE* THE PAST, IT'LL *STAY* CHANGED.

BUT TIME'S A *JUGGERNAUT*--IT GOES WHERE IT *WANTS* TO GO. THE FARTHER BACK YOU *TRAVEL,* THE HARDER IT IS TO CHANGE WHERE YOU *CAME* FROM.

I *CAN'T* KILL THE FUTURE. NOT *ALONE.*

I'M GONNA NEED YOUR *HELP.*

KILL THE FUTURE...?

THERE ARE **THREE POINTS** IN THE PAST I NEED TO **PUSH** ON.

IF I DO IT **RIGHT?** AND YOU DO **YOUR** PART?

AT THE **END** OF THIS, WE'LL GET **ONE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY--**

TO **KILL THE FUTURE.**

YES.

I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A **WEAPON.** BUT IF I **FAIL**...THEN YOU **KNOW.** YOU KNOW WHAT'S **COMING.**

AT LEAST SAY "PUT RIGHT WHAT ONCE WENT--"

DO YOU **WANT** DAD TO BE A KNULL? **DO** YOU?

'CAUSE IT'S NOT JUST THE **AMOEBA PEOPLE** OF THE **NINTH WHATEVER** WHO HAVE TO FACE **THAT** MUSIC!

I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** I WANT.

I PUT TOGETHER THIS WHOLE SYMBIOTE GANG--**SLEEPER, TOXIN, RED GOBLIN,** EVEN **FLEXO, THE RUBBER MAN.** IT WAS **ALL** FOR MY DAD. THAT'S WHAT I **TOLD** MYSELF.

BUT...I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'D **SAY** TO HIM NOW.

LIKE I SAID. MAYBE IT'S **ME.**

I MET **GOD,** AND I GOT **FIVE QUESTIONS.** I ASKED WHAT DAD WOULD **BECOME.** I ASKED HOW TO **STOP** HIM. I EVEN ASKED WHERE HE **WAS.**

I DIDN'T ASK HOW TO GET HIM **BACK.**

WELL, THAT'S THE **GOOD NEWS,** KID. DAD'S **ALREADY** BACK.

THE SYMBIOTE **YOU** NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR IS--

DYLAN!

UGH. **BREN.**

I GOTTA GO. JUST BE **READY,** OKAY?

WHEN IT'S TIME, YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.

DON'T **FADE OUT!** FINISH THE **SENTENCE!**

WHO DO I HAVE TO WATCH--?

DYLAN?

WHO ARE YOU **TALKING** TO?

TOXIN.
BREN WATERS.

EDDIE BROCK.

NOBODY. MYSELF. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I'M PROBABLY JUST GOING **INSANE** DOWN HERE IN THE DARK WITHOUT--

IT'S YOUR DAD, DYLAN.

HE'S, UH... HE'S ON TV.

--IF YOU'RE JUST **JOINING** US--A SQUAD OF **MERCENARIES** HAVE TELEPORTED **PAST THE POLICE CORDON** AND **INTO THE RING!** HEROES FOR **HIRE,** OR ON THEIR **OWN DIME?**

EITHER WAY, SAWBONES--THEY'VE MADE A **BIG MISTAKE!** BROCK HAS **SOLO** IN A **BACKBREAKING SUBMISSION HOLD!**

WAIT-- **PALADIN** HAS HIS GUN DRAWN ON **BEDLAM--**

THIS IS **CRAZY.**

YOUR DAD'S GOT THOSE **KING IN BLACK** POWERS... IS HE **CONTROLLING** ALL THOSE THINGS?

I THINK IT'S **WEIRDER,** NORMIE.

LORD IN HEAVEN, THE BULLET WENT **RIGHT THROUGH BEDLAM'S HEAD!**

SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING **HUMAN** UNDER THAT **GOO,** CRUSHER!

AND-- **AIRPLANE FROM BEDLAM!** PALADIN WON'T GET UP FROM **THAT** IN A HURRY!

THEY'RE **SYMBIOTES.** BUT THEY **FIGHT** LIKE HUMANS. LIKE HOSTS.

THE **SAME** HOST.

LAST TIME I SAW MY **DAD,** HE WAS A **GIANT HAND,** SLEEPER.

THE TIME BEFORE THAT, HE WAS CALLING HIMSELF **BEDLAM** AND TRYING TO KILL ME.

THEY'RE **ALL** EDDIE BROCK.

POWERBOMB! THAT FINISHES IT, SAWBONES!

IT'S TIME FOR THE **REAL** HEROES TO STEP IN! WHATEVER COSMIC CRAPOLA THE **AVENGERS** ARE BUSY WITH TONIGHT, THEY NEED TO **WRAP IT UP** AND **GET OVER HERE!**

SOMEONE HAS TO GET IN THE RING AND **END** THIS!

OKAY.

I'M JUST GONNA SAY IT, GUYS.

IF THIS PSYCHO WANTS **DYLAN?** DYLAN **STAYS HERE.**

OR HE GOES TO THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** OR SOMETHING. GETS **PROTECTION.**

WHAT? BREN, THIS IS **MY SQUAD**-- I PUT YOU GUYS **TOGETHER**--

VENOM PUT US TOGETHER. BUT YOUR SYMBIOTE **LEFT** YOU, AND YOU LEFT **HIM**, SO... YOU'RE **NOT** VENOM.

YOU'RE JUST A **KID**, DUDE. YOU'RE **HIS** KID.

IF YOUR DAD'S **REALLY** GONE CRAZY...HOW CAN **YOU** FIGHT HIM?

AND EVEN IF YOU CAN **FIGHT** HIM...

"...CAN YOU PUT HIM DOWN?"

LET'S NOT JUMP STRAIGHT TO THE **KILL OPTION.**

THIS EMERGENCY MEETING IS ABOUT **CONTAINING** BROCK BEFORE SYMBIOTE PANIC GETS **WORSE.**

ALCHEMAX.
RECENTLY ACQUIRED THE LIFE FOUNDATION. NOW IN THE SYMBIOTE BUSINESS.

WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO SEND IN THE **MERCS?**

LIZ ALLAN.
ALCHEMAX C.E.O.
HAS SECRETS.

THEY CAME RECOMMENDED. AND WITH **JACK CARSON** DEAD, WE'RE SHORT ON IN-HOUSE TALENT.

ARE WE? IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR C.E.O. HAS CERTAIN RESOURCES OF HER **OWN...**

REALLY, DRAKE?

YOU WANT TO AIR OUT THE LAUNDRY **HERE AND NOW?**

I'D **NEVER** OVERSTEP MY BOUNDS, MS. ALLAN.

I KNOW WHO MY BOSS IS.

CARLTON DRAKE.
LIFE FOUNDATION C.E.O.
KNOWS SECRETS.

AND WITH THAT IN **MIND...**IT'S TIME YOU MET ONE OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION'S **TOP CONSULTANTS.**

TO TELL US ABOUT THE **SOLUTION** TO THE BROCK PROBLEM...

...I PRESENT **MISTER MERIDIUS.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE **BOARD**--I'VE BEEN STUDYING EDDIE BROCK FOR A **VERY** LONG TIME. I KNOW HIM AS WELL AS HE KNOWS **HIM-SELF,** IN FACT.

BELIEVE ME, I'VE HAD A **LOT** OF TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENTS OF TODAY.

AND WHAT **HAVE** YOU PREPARED, EXACTLY...?

SOME TIME AGO, THERE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE **CHEMICAL LEAK** FROM AN ALCHEMAX FACILITY. **CHEMICAL K-43.**

HIGHLY TOXIC-- TO HUMAN SYSTEMS ***AND,*** INTRIGUINGLY, TO ***SYMBIOTE LIFE.***

THIS IS **CHEMICAL K-44.**

I'VE **IMPROVED** ON THE ORIGINAL FORMULA--ADDED MY OWN **SECRET INGREDIENT,** AS IT WERE--TO MAKE THE ***ULTIMATE WEAPON*** IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN HUMAN AND SYMBIOTE.

WHAT'S IN THIS **VIAL...**

...WILL **WIN** THE VENOM WAR.

THE WARS NEVER *ENDED*, PETER.

THEY CONTINUE *ENDLESSLY*. ENDLESS LIVES *DESTROYED*-- AND ALL AT *MY HAND*. CAN YOU *BLAME* ME FOR REFUSING THIS CALL?

EDDIE, DYLAN... THEY ARE *BOTH* BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.

EDDIE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE. AND *DYLAN* COULD PROBABLY USE SOME GUIDANCE *TOO*, WHEREVER HE IS. I HATE TO *SAY* IT...

...BUT IF HE'S GONNA GO SEE HIS *DAD*, HE'S PROBABLY *SAFER* IF HE'S WEARING *YOU*--

NO! NEVER AGAIN!

HE KNOWS WHAT I AM NOW! HE KNOWS ALL I'VE DONE!

I WON'T BOND WITH HIM AGAIN!

YOU CAN HELP EDDIE. HELP *DYLAN*. BUT ALL I CAN DO...IS *HURT* THEM.

ALL I CAN EVER DO IS DESTROY.

...

IT'D BE NICE IF THAT WERE *TRUE*, WOULDN'T IT?

IT'D MAKE THINGS **EASY.**

TROUBLE **IS...** I'VE **SEEN** YOU DO THE RIGHT THING. I SAW FLASH MAKE YOU A **HERO.** I SAW YOU AND **EDDIE** SAVE THE WORLD.

SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE **EXCUSE** ANYMORE.

YOU'RE **NOT** SOME MINDLESS MONSTER. YOU'RE NOT SO **ALIEN** YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT **GOOD** IS--IF YOU EVER **WERE,** YOU'VE **LEARNED.**

SO **NOW** YOU'RE STUCK WITH THE **CHOICE.**

DO **GOOD THINGS,** DO **BAD THINGS...** EVEN DOING **NOTHING** IS A CHOICE.

AND IT **SUCKS,** OBVIOUSLY! **NOBODY** ASKED FOR THIS! BUT THE **PRICE OF LIVING** IS **CHOOSING HOW TO LIVE!**

EVERY DAY! EVERY MOMENT WE'RE ALIVE!

THAT'S THE ONLY POWER **ANY OF US HAVE!**

AND POWER COMES WITH **RESPONSIBILITY.** MY UNCLE TAUGHT ME THAT.

AND WE CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM IT.

WE CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM THE CHOICES WE'VE MADE.

CAN WE, PAL?

I CAN'T EVEN LOOK.

WHAT THAT **RED ONE** DID TO **PALADIN**... HE'S LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.

FDNY EMT

'LEAST THE FREAKS TOSSED 'EM OUT WHERE THE **AMBULANCE CREWS** COULD FIND 'EM. **CONSIDERATE,** REALLY.

DO WE KNOW WHO **HIRED** THE MERCS, CHIEF?

THAT'S FOR **LATER.** RIGHT NOW, I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN **TWICE.**

IF WE DON'T SEE AN **AVENGERS CARD** OR A **BIG BLUE 4,** THIS IS A **NO-SPANDEX ZONE,** PEOPLE--WEB-HEADS **ESPECIALLY.**

LET'S GET SOME MORE EYES ON THOSE **ROOFTOPS!**

ANYONE TRIED SHOUTING *"AVENGERS ASSEMBLE"* YET?

SEEMS TO WORK WHEN--

HUH.

WEIRD.

SOMETHING **WRONG?**

JUST JUMPY. THOUGHT I SAW **MOVEMENT...**

"...BUT THERE'S NOTHING."

...YOU FEEL THAT?

THERE'S A SYMBIOTE IN HERE WITH US

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

HAW!

NEITHER DO I...BECAUSE THIS SYMBIOTE KNOWS CAMOUFLAGE.

DON'T YOU, SLEEPER?

DID YOU BRING DYLAN WITH YOU?

THIS IS A BAD IDEA...

ME AND ALL MY FRIENDS, DAD. ARE WE GONNA TALK THIS OUT?

OR WHAT?

WE'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD TO TALK, SON. I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE.

LISTEN...I'M BACK TO STAY. I PROMISE. BUT I NEED ONE THING FROM YOU.

I KNOW YOU CUT HIM OFF FROM MY HIVE...

...BUT I NEED MY SYMBIOTE BACK, DYLAN. I NEED MY OTHER.

I NEED VENOM.

GEEZ, IS THAT A *KID...?*

EH. SO WAS *SPIDER-MAN* WHEN HE KICKED MY ASS.

BACK FROM COMMERCIAL IN TWO MINUTES.

...

I CAN'T DO IT, DAD.

WELL, THAT'S JUST NOT *ACCEPTABLE,* SON.

SEE, I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU *KEEP* HIM...AND IT'S A *NIGHT-MARE.*

"EIGHT BILLION HUMAN BEINGS-- ALL TRAPPED IN A *SYMBIOSIS* THAT *NEVER ENDS.*

"VENOMWORLD."

SOUNDS *BAD.* BUT... THAT'S NOT WHAT I *MEANT.*

I DON'T HAVE THE *SYMBIOTE,* DAD.

VENOM'S GONE.

...

WHAT?

WHY WOULD HE *DO THAT?* HE HAD *ONE JOB!*

YOU HAD ONE JOB!

WHY-- *WHY* WOULD YOU *LET HIM--?*

WHY DO YOU EVEN CARE?

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN *MONTHS,* DAD! I'M ON THE *STREET!*

LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE *BEDLAM--* NOW BEDLAM'S YOUR *SIDEKICK?* HOW DOES *THAT* WORK?

YOU SAY YOU'RE *BACK,* YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR *MID-LIFE CRISIS,* LIKE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO *ABANDON* ME FOR YOUR *CRAP* AGAIN--

--AND THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS ASK FOR THE THING YOU *KILLED PEOPLE WITH!*

THAT'S RIGHT, DAD! I KNOW *EVERY-THING VENOM EVER DID!*

EVERYTHING!

HE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING?

WHERE... WHERE IS HE?

HERE.

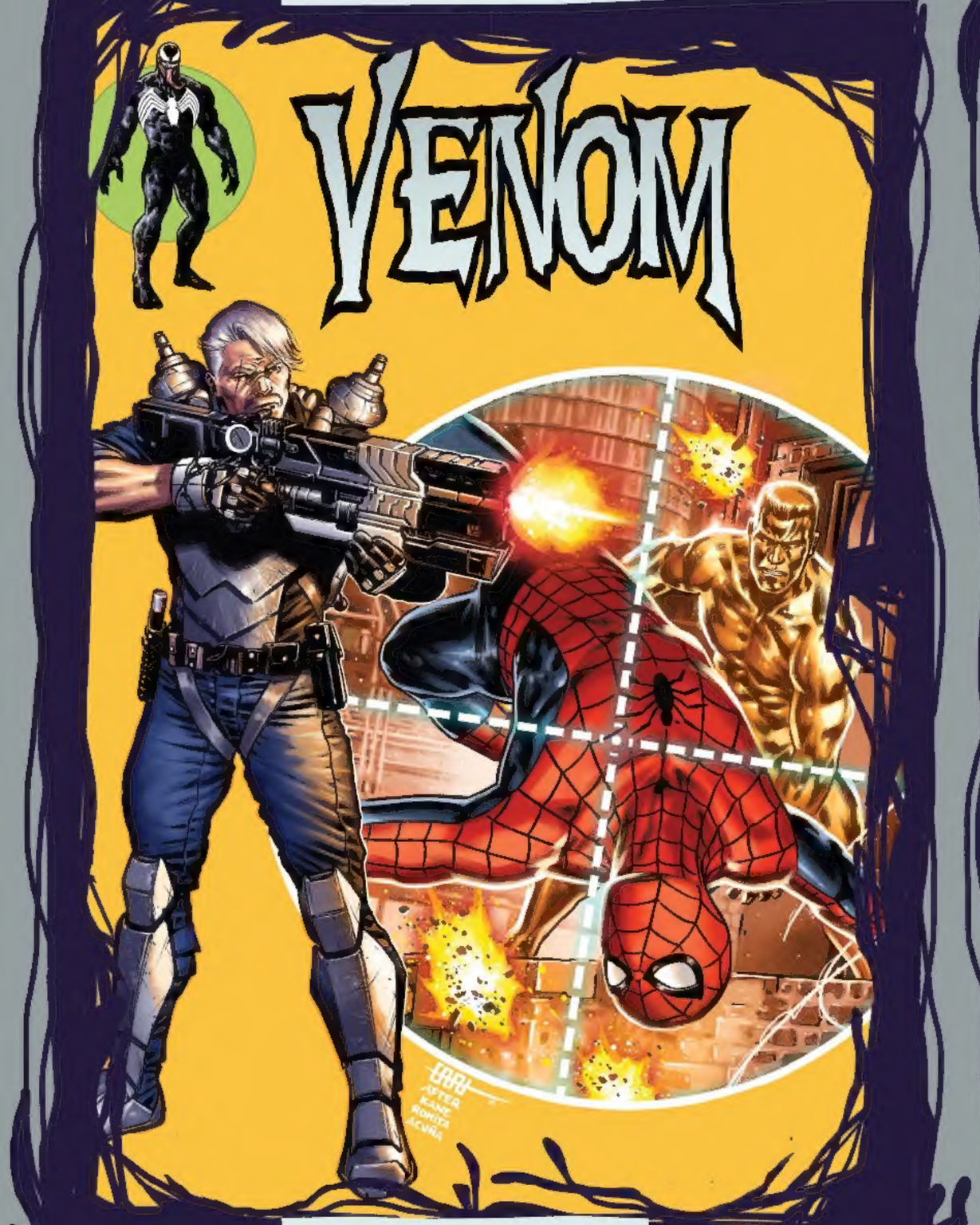
DON'T WORRY, GUYS.

VENOM'S IN GOOD HANDS NOW.

TO BE CONTINUED...

VENOM WAR

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!



VENOM #36

VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN #1

CHECKLIST

- 08/07/24 **VENOM WAR 1**
- 08/14/24 **VENOM 36**
- 08/14/24 **VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1**
- 08/21/24 **VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1**
- 08/21/24 **VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1**
- 08/28/24 **VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1**
- 09/04/24 **VENOM WAR 2**
- 09/04/24 **VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2**
- 09/11/24 **VENOM 37**
- 09/11/24 **VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1**
- 09/11/24 **VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2**
- 09/18/24 **VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1**
- 09/18/24 **VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2**
- 09/18/24 **VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1**
- 09/25/24 **VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1**
- 09/25/24 **VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2**
- 10/02/24 **VENOM WAR 3**
- 10/02/24 **VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3**
- 10/09/24 **VENOM 38**
- 10/09/24 **VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2**
- 10/16/24 **VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2**
- 10/16/24 **VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3**
- 10/23/24 **VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3**
- 10/23/24 **VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2**
- 10/30/24 **VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3**
- 10/30/24 **VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1**
- 11/06/24 **VENOM WAR 4**
- 11/06/24 **VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4**
- 11/13/24 **VENOM 39**
- 11/13/24 **VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3**
- 11/13/24 **VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3**
- 11/20/24 **VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3**
- 11/20/24 **VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1**
- 11/27/24 **VENOM WAR 5**

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR *BRAINS*--
I MEAN, YOUR *LETTERS!* SEND YOUR NOTES TO
SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM. BE SURE
TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

VENOM WAR #2

AAAH! VENOM HORSE HAS ESCAPED THE LAB!

VENOM HORSE, PART 1
BY EWING, NIETO, D'ARMATA & MAHER.

IN THE BOOK *SIMULACRA AND SIMULATION*, JEAN BAUDRILLARD POSITS FOUR LEVELS OF SIMULATION VIA SIGNS AND SIGNIFIERS.

THE FIRST STAGE IS A FAITHFUL COPY, A "REFLECTION OF A PROFOUND REALITY."

SPIDER-MAN IS A HERO WITH HUMAN PROBLEMS--A SCRAWNY WALLFLOWER WITH BILLS TO PAY, WHO FEELS GUILT.

THE SECOND STAGE IS AN UNFAITHFUL COPY, WHICH "MASKS AND DENATURES" REALITY.

VENOM BEGINS AS A "DARK SPIDER-MAN"--A MUSCLE-BOUND JOCK, SELF-SUSTAINING, TAKING NO RESPONSIBILITY.

AUGH!

THE THIRD STAGE PRETENDS TO BE A FAITHFUL COPY, BUT NO TRUE REPRESENTATION IS TAKING PLACE.

DYLAN BROCK IS THE CHILD OF A GOO ALIEN AND A SYMBIOTE GOD.

ANYWAY, I'M *VENOM HORSE*!

THE FOURTH STAGE IS PURE SIMULACRUM, WITH NO REFERENCE TO REALITY AT ALL.

AT THIS STAGE, SIGNS MERELY REFLECT OTHER SIGNS.

HAVE MERCY, VENOM HORSE!